

# LOS ANGELES MAN CLAIMS RIGHT TO THRONE OF POLAND

## Col. John Sobieski, Once Soldier of Fortune, Direct Descendant of Thaddeus of Warsaw.

### SAYS INFANT GRANDSON IS ROYAL HEIR

*Interesting Predicament of a California Youngster and the Romantic Life Story of His Grandfather—Driven from Austria by Maximilian, He Lived to Command Firing Party That Ended the Career of His Cns-Time Persecutor.*

Los Angeles, Cal.—Sucking his bare pluck toes and calling aloud for the royal nursing bottle, the rightful future king of Poland lies in his cradle in a cottage in the West Adams street district serenely unconscious of the fact that a battle of documents and family trees is raging over his crown and estates.

Little does he care that a rude Chicago editor has denied the claim that he is the direct descendant of Thaddeus of Warsaw and heir to a vast confiscated estate—not to mention the shattered Polish throne.

His fond father is L. S. Gilhausen, a clerk in the First National bank. His grandfather is Colonel John Sobieski, the well-known temperance lecturer—the last of the illustrious line of John III., who rescued Europe from the Turks.

From a life of quiet retirement, this grandfather and grandchild have burst suddenly into national fame.

Recently a Polish editor named Siemiradski came into print in the Chicago Record-Herald denouncing Colonel Sobieski as an impostor, or practically that. He denies Colonel Sobieski's claim to direct descent by the eldest-son-of-the-eldest-son route from King John III., the adored national hero of Poland—again not to mention the throne and the great estates.

This editor with a name like a sneeze claims that the last genuine Sobieski died over a century and a half ago. He calls upon Sobieski of Los Angeles to bring forward his



Mrs. L. S. Gilhausen.

proofs of descent. He suggests that his documents and proofs be submitted to the Imperial Academy of Science at Cracow.

He may be somewhat chagrined to learn that the paper containing his defy has come into the hands of Colonel Sobieski, who has promptly accepted the challenge. He has written to the Chicago Record-Herald and to Editor Siemiradski that he will be pleased to leave the question to the institution of learning named in the defy if it can be shown that it is a university of national importance and standing in Poland. Colonel Sobieski confesses that he has never heard of it.

"It is only for my honor that I am preparing these documents," said Colonel Sobieski to the writer.

**He Wants No Throne.**

"There is no throne in Poland. If there were one and it were offered to me, I give you my word I should refuse it."

The eyes of the old nobelman flashed as he added:

"Father would I go to the cradle and strangle that little baby as he

lies there than ever to allow him to ascend any throne. Yes, my memories of monarchy are as bitter as that."

His memories of monarchy cannot, indeed, be very happy. This gentle old nobelman who lives so quietly in Los Angeles saw his father led away to be slaughtered by Russian soldiers after long confinement in a prison so vile a dog could not have lived in it; saw his mother driven away from home almost a pauper; saw her driven like an outcast from country to country until she died an unhappy exile.

No wonder his eyes flash. The intricate question of his right to that noble ancestry will be considered below. The man's own life is so interesting, so thrilling and romantic that it rightly takes precedence over family trees.

Even his nearest neighbors in the pleasant neighborhood of West Adams street little dream that this sunny old gentleman has lived the wild life of a soldier of fortune.

He commanded the reserve firing party that executed the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian in Mexico. It was his revolver that sent a shot crashing into the ear of the emperor after he had fallen wounded at the first unskilled volley.

He was an eyewitness to the famous battle of the Monitor and Merrimac; led a distinguished and sensational career in the regular army; took part in the famous expedition against the Mormons; was under fire 426 times during the civil war—our own civil war, not Poland's. Lastly, he became a soldier of fortune in Mexico—in the Mexican war for independence.

**His Remarkable Life.**

It was there that fate chose him as one of the firing party, where he wiped out an old score against an emperor, avenging the cruelty of his mother's banishment.

Follows the briefest possible glance at his remarkable life:

He was born in 1842 in Warsaw, being the sixth in line of descent from the great warrior monarch of Poland, John III. His father was John Sobieski, who lost his life in 1848 in the great Polish rebellion.

He says one of his earliest recollections of childhood is of a sleigh-ride and the gay trappings of a Cossack soldier who conveyed his mother and himself to say goodbye to his father—about to be executed.

His father had been captured by the Russian army and had been confined in a vile Russian prison, crawling with vermin, for 13 months.

Before they were allowed to see the doomed husband and father, the young mother was taken before the Russian viceroys, who offered to allow her to retain her estates and honors if she would give up her son—the last Sobieski—to be sent to the Russian capital and there brought up as a loyal subject of the Czar.

**Banished by Maximilian.**

She proudly refused, and chose banishment, poverty and misery. She bade her husband good-by, and he was shot down the next day. At the same time her father and brother were killed.

Everywhere went the exiles, ordered out by the authorities: driven out of Austria, Prussia and Italy. They were driven from Italy by the Austrian viceroys, Maximilian—afterward the emperor of Mexico. They took refuge in England at last. The mother died and the son was adopted into the family of a Polish professor, who had been an instructor at the United States naval academy at Annapolis. When the United States ships of war visited Liverpool the cadets used to visit their old professor. One of them persuaded Sobieski to stow away in the old frigate Constellation and come to America.

He was then only a little fellow 12 years old, but managed to enlist in the United States army as a bugler. He enlisted in 1855, and two years afterward was ordered out with the troops that went the desperate journey across the plains to fight the Mormons.

Many of the young officers under whom he served on that expedition afterward became famous in the civil war—Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, then a colonel; Capt. Hancock, afterward the northern general; Col. Alexander, who became Lee's chief of staff; Fitz John Porter, Maj. Beauregard; Capt. J. B. Magruder, afterward a southern general, was commander of young Sobieski's battery.

**Witnessed Stirring Scenes.**

When the war was getting ready to break, young Sobieski's battery was ordered recruited to its full strength and the young Pole was ordered to New York and Washington on recruiting duty, witnessing the inauguration of Lincoln, the closing debates in the senate and many other stirring scenes.

He went all through the civil war and was terribly wounded the first day of the battle of Gettysburg. It was his privilege to be an eyewitness to the most dramatic battle in naval history, the first fight of the ironclads, the fight between the Merrimac and the Monitor.

After the war he went into Mexico and began another fight for a people's freedom. He lived the hunted life of a guerrilla warrior, eating rattlesnakes and living a precarious life off the country. He was commissioned a colonel. He seemed to have a charmed life. He came through a hundred thrilling escapades unhurt—once being the only man of an entire command to survive.

After the imprisonment of Emperor Maximilian, Col. Sobieski became one of the jailers of that Austrian potentate who had driven the two pitiful refugees—Sobieski and his widowed young mother—from Italy. He recalled that incident to the emperor's mind one day in prison.

"Well, time rounds up all things," said the unhappy prisoner.

**Maximilian's Execution.**

The old Polish nobelman tells of the tragic incident of history—the execution of the emperor—in simple soldier fashion. In writing an account of it for his biography he says:

"The last three or four days of Maximilian's life were spent almost wholly with the priest. On the morning of the execution, June 19, 1867—a bright, beautiful morning—he was taken out of the old convent where he was captured and where he had lived during the time he was in our custody, and placed in an ambulance and driven outside of the walls of the city near an old fortress, where the execution took place.

"Arriving on the grounds, the troops were formed in line, the doomed men were placed in position, Maximilian

one of the firing party, directing them to take good aim.

"The firing party was now ordered to advance, make ready, aim, fire! Strange as it may seem, Maximilian fell mortally wounded, only exclaiming as he fell: 'Oh, my God! my God!' At once the commander of the reserve firing party (Sobieski himself) ordered one of the men from his own party to advance, and drawing his own revolver, ordered the soldier to put it to the ear of the archduke and fire. He did so, and the career of the archduke was ended."

Col. Sobieski's long subsequent career as lawyer and temperance lecturer is well known. He had one son who would have perpetuated the name but he died while a young child. His one daughter married Mr. Gilhausen, of Los Angeles. To them a little son has lately been born.

**Sees End of All Thrones.**

So the last of the Sobieskis is a Gilhausen.

After this long and exciting career of adventure, Col. Sobieski is a calm, handsome, gentle old man—the soul of courtesy. Aside from his bitterness against monarchies whose tyrannies have brought him such misery, he has other reasons for not caring anything about the right to the empty throne of Poland.

"Before you are a middle-aged man," he said to the writer, "every throne in Europe will be swept away in a vast bloodless revolution."

That is the startling theory of the last Sobieski.

He is making a vigorous retort to Editor Siemiradski merely to defend his honor.

Siemiradski claims that there is not a mention in history of any Sobieski in recent times. He wants to know why no Sobieski came forward as a candidate for king at the election of King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski in 1764 if the family still existed. He denies the execution of Sobieski's father, saying that history has no mention of it, and points out that it would have made the nation thrill.

He makes a great point of the fact that the Almanach de Gotha makes no mention of any living descendants of John III.

**No Sobieski Dynasty.**

In reply, Col. Sobieski points out many places wherein the Polish editor contradicts himself; he then proceeds. "He (the editor) declares that the Almanach de Gotha has not got me on the list. I could not presume under any circumstances to think that my name would appear in that distinguished almanac, as it is a register exclusively devoted to dynasties. I do not claim to be of any Sobieski dynasty."

"In the first place there was no



standing on the right of the firing party. The firing party consisted of 36 men, formed into two companies, six to each of the doomed men. (Two traitorous generals were executed at the same time.)

"One in each firing party of six had a blank cartridge. There had been a sharp rivalry for the honor of belonging to the firing party. I was selected to command the reserve firing party. When everything was ready each of the men was asked if he had anything to say."

**Fate Giv's Deferred Revenge.**

"Maximilian, speaking in Spanish, said in substance that he loved Mexico and desired its welfare; and if shedding his blood would be the means of bringing peace and happiness to the distracted country he was willing to die. He asked that the commander of the firing party advance to him, and he delivered to that officer six pieces of gold which is equivalent to about ten dollars of our money. He ordered a piece of gold to be delivered to each

Sobieski dynasty. The definition of dynasty is a family of kings. Poland in the days of John III. was an aristocratic republic and elective monarchy. There is a tradition that comes down, however, that when the elective system was abolished by the new constitution in 1791 it was the general understanding that the Sobieski family was to be the royal family. The constitution was only prevented from going into force by the conquest of Poland."

Col. Sobieski denies that the Sobieski disappeared from Polish history; he says they were in every fight for Polish liberty.

"Regarding the charge that the execution of a Sobieski (his father) would have made a thrill had it really occurred," he says: "Nicholas I. had a wonderfully effective method of quieting thrills, or at least the manifestation of them."

Col. Sobieski has instructed his Chicago attorney to confer with the Polish editor regarding the substantiation of the case to Cracow, ultimately.

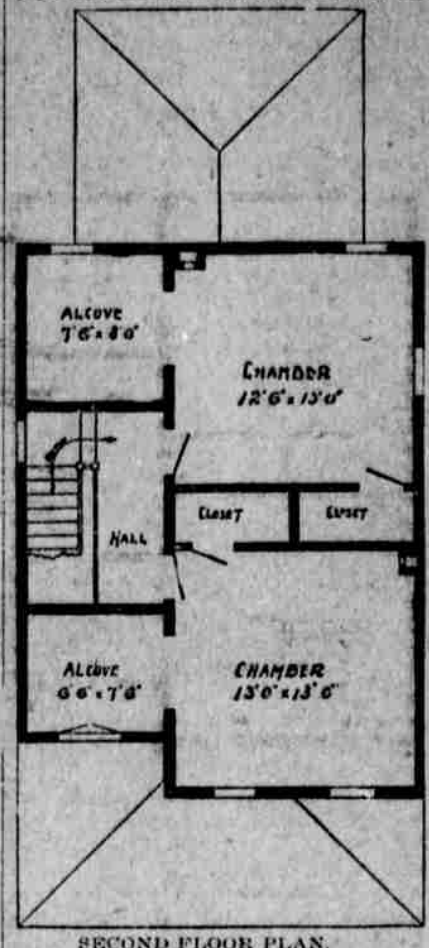


Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF CHARGE on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 124 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

It is sometimes desirable to build a cheap house with a view of improving it in a few years' time. It is not necessary that a house should be unsightly because it is cheap. It may have a good appearance, the rooms may be of a fair size and conveniently arranged and the whole work, as far as it goes, may be just as well done as though planned for a more expensive structure. The size of the windows and doors, the placing of partitions, as well as the roof design, the placing of chimneys, bathrooms, and other modern requirements may be arranged in the plans much better than to have the house torn to pieces years afterward to rectify original mistakes. It is in just such work as this that plans and specifications are especially valuable. A study of the elevation and floor plan before commencing to build will suggest many details that will in all probability be necessary at some time.

All houses should be arranged for some kind of heating plant in the cellar. It is generally advisable to put gas pipes and electric wires in the walls. Inventions for heating and lighting are coming so thick and fast that new propositions come up every year. Farmers often make the remark that if they had a building to do over again, they would put in pipes with a view of putting in an acetylene gas generator. Electric door bells cost little more than any other kind and it costs but a few cents to buy enough wire to connect the bell with the battery at the time of building. If pipes and wires are put in the partitions when the house is being built

penae. The plans provide for a wooden drain under ground and lead pipes from the bath and sink with S traps constructed in such a manner as to prevent gases from the drain entering the house. Remember that lead pipes are all right for waste water but

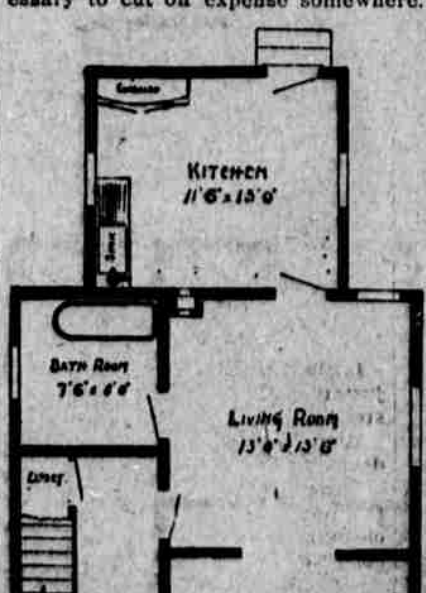


It should never be used for potable water. In building cheap houses the bath and kitchen sink are seldom thought of. Usually these are considered extravagances, but the fact



they may stay there for years until wanted for use. If they are not put in it means that the plaster must be broken, the floors cut to pieces and the good wife put to considerable extra work and annoyance or that the house never gets modern conveniences.

In building a cheap house it is necessary to cut off expense somewhere.



is the kitchen sink is one of the greatest labor savers a woman can have and a bath is no longer considered a luxury but it is an absolute necessity, if good health is taken into consideration. Good health is necessary for most persons but a good many seem to get along through the greater part of their lives in a sickly, half discouraged manner and these are the very ones who consider bathing unnecessary. A round wooden tank placed over the kitchen costs but a trifle of what it is really worth. Rain water from the upper roof will fill it supplied and a charcoal filter will fit the water for drinking purposes if so desired. The water should pass through the filter before entering the tank and the tank should be cleaned at least once a year.

Another saving in expense in this house is starting the chimneys from brackets six feet above the floor. This makes a short chimney and a light one that may be supported without heavy timbers. There is but little brick and mortar and the job of building the chimneys is a short one. It will be noticed that this plan offers plenty of light and ventilation for every room in the house and it provides for a good big convenient kitchen.

The size of this house is 22 feet wide by 42 feet exclusive of the porch. The main part of the house is only 22 by 30 feet. The 12 by 14 extension being small and only one story high adds but little to the cost and the convenience of having the kitchen arranged in this way is worth a great deal. It will be noticed that while there are only two bedrooms the two alcoves will furnish sleeping quarters for the children and the arrangement is a good one for a young couple while the children are small. This plan offers an inducement to own a home when starting out in married life instead of waiting until sufficient funds are saved to build a more expensive habitation.

It is difficult to estimate the cost of building because materials vary so much in price in different parts of the country, but under ordinary circumstances this house should be built, as shown in the plans, for about \$1,000. It certainly is a good looking house for that amount of money.

**To Prohibit Barmaloe.**  
A movement is on foot in England to prohibit women from acting as barmaloes. If passed, the proposed bill will affect between 30,000 and 40,000 women.

**Unless She's His Sister.**  
"How long does it take a young man to teach a girl to swim?"  
"If she's pretty it ought to take all summer."—Houston Post.

**Always Fetches It.**  
Wado Parker: "What do you take for a catch?"  
Glen Miller: "A mail on a yacht."—Cleveland Leader.

**DIAMONDS OUT OF ANGE.**  
Samples Mined on Earth Fragments of Immense Meteorites.

The only real perfect diamonds which are to be found on this globe are those which fall from the sky in meteorites; all diamonds which are mined in the diamond fields of the world are only fragments of gems.

That is a startling statement, but a still more startling one is that all the diamonds to be found on this planet have fallen on the earth from the skies and have not, as most persons suppose, been produced here like coal and other mineral products.

Yet this is the latest scientific assertion with regard to the world's stock of the precious stones. The whole stock of the Kimberly mines, with their unknown resources, and all the gems of this character to be found in any part of the planet—all have fallen from space at some time or other.

Somewhere in the illimitable distance there is a vast diamond factory, the only place where perfect gems are produced. The first piece of evidence is that the whole of the rock in which Kimberly gems are found is similar to nothing else on earth; it has been given a distinguishing name (kimberly) and it corresponds exactly with the pattern of which meteorites are composed.

In plain language, the whole of that vast mass of rock fell on earth from the skies at some late period of the world's formation. This is rather staggering, but it must be remembered that there is a mountain in Arizona which is acknowledged by all scientists to be a meteoric mountain. And diamonds are being found at that spot.

Diamonds are found practically in superficial layers of the earth's crust; that is another proof of their celestial origin. Further, the diamond crystals are formed like no others that are of earthly origin; this is regarded as a strong proof that they fell from above. It is curious that earthly diamonds are not perfect and that some of them when first brought from Kimberly mines and exposed to the air explode and crack into several pieces. Now the stones which come down in meteorites also explode when they are taken from the protecting mass which covers them completely. This is due to the peculiar conditions which prevail where the stones are produced and these conditions can not prevail on the earth as the oxygen prevents them.

In order to make a diamond it is necessary that the constituents should be very hot and then cooled quite suddenly; nothing else will account for the peculiar shape of the crystals and the general formation of the gem.

**DR. FRENCH'S WATERMELONS.**  
The Punishment He Meted Out to the Juvenile Thieves.

Of all the favorites of the "storied past," in the matter of original cleverness and quaintness of humor, few surpass Dr. French, of the little village of Bath, N. H. Dr. French has been dead over 60 years, yet some of his unique adventures are household words to-day.

One summer he possessed a crop of watermelons that made his heart glad and the small boy envious. One moonlight night the sin of envy was transmuted into larceny, and the doctor was bereft of the finest of his patch.

He said nothing, thought much, and apparently did nothing. But some evenings later, before midnight, he received sudden summonses to the bedside of half a dozen small boys in the neighborhood. They were very ill, and vomited copiously.

Dr. French then knew who had taken his melons, as he had injected a stiff dose of tartar emetic into some of his melons. Since he collected his usual fee from each patient, he was quite indifferent to the further punishment of the bad boys, and discovered a new source of profit in melon raising. But the story was too good to keep, and in later years he often repeated it.

**Lady Curzon's Voice.**

In the later years of her life only very intimate friends knew that Lady Curzon possessed a remarkably fine singing voice or that she had been a pupil of Mme. Marchesi. People hardly gave her the credit for having self-advertisement or for being shy and yet she did one and was the other! Till the end she and her husband kept up the habit of their courtship days when apart and telegraphed or cabled to each other daily. In view of Lady Curzon's untimely death, superstitious folk are pointing to the fact that at the Delhi Durbar she wore a dress with a design of the unlucky peacock's feather. Her young friends chaffed her on this at the time and told her that no wearer of peacock feathers ever had good luck thereafter.

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